

**From:** Barbara I. Ball  
**To:** Microsoft Settlement  
**Date:** 1/28/02 8:10pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Barbara I. Ball  
104 Goddard Place  
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Microsoft Settlement  
U.S. Department of Justice-Antitrust Division  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Microsoft Settlement:

The Microsoft trial squandered taxpayers' dollars, was a nuisance to consumers, and a serious deterrent to investors in the high-tech industry. It is high time for this trial, and the wasteful spending accompanying it, to be over. Consumers will indeed see competition in the marketplace, rather than the courtroom. And the investors who propel our economy can finally breathe a sigh of relief.

Upwards of 60% of Americans thought the federal government should not have broken up Microsoft. If the case is finally over, companies like Microsoft can get back into the business of innovating and creating better products for consumers, and not wasting valuable resources on litigation.

Competition means creating better goods and offering superior services to consumers. With government out of the business of stifling progress and tying the hands of corporations, consumers - rather than bureaucrats and judges - will once again pick the winners and losers on Wall Street. With the reins off the high-tech industry, more entrepreneurs will be encouraged to create new and competitive products and technologies.

Our economies downturn started the sametime as the lawsuit started. I remember thinking that with so many people losing their entire savings because of the lawsuit that the people most hurt by all of this nonsense was the little guy with the most to lose.

Yahoo also lost big and the people who invested money was the factory workers, the sales clerks, etc. The government has to get out of our business and stick to the job the constitution gave them. Everything the government touches goes right down the tubes and this proves it.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views.

Sincerely,

Barbara Inez Ball